

FOSTER YOUTH EDUCATION JUDICIAL CHECKLIST

Some of the best predictors of success for foster care alumni are education-related. This Checklist was designed to help judges facilitate discussion during hearings to promote positive education outcomes and prepare foster youth for a successful transition to adulthood.

School Readiness

- ✓ If the child is age 0-3, has the child been assessed for Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) services?
- ✓ If the child is age 0-5, is he enrolled in Early Head Start, Head Start, or Pre-Kindergarten?

School Stability (How can the court ensure that:)

- ✓ If the child is removed from his parent's home, the child stays in his school of origin?
- ✓ The child has transportation to/from the school of origin?
- ✓ If the child must change placements while in care, the child remains in his current school?
- ✓ Any school changes occur at the end of grading periods?
- ✓ Any school changes do not conflict with standardized testing or final exams?

Education Decision-Maker (in many jurisdictions, DFPS generally has education decision-making rights when appointed TMC or PMC and it delegates some of those rights to the foster parent or caregiver)

- ✓ If DFPS is appointed as TMC or PMC, does it have education decision-making rights?
- ✓ If DFPS is not the education decision-maker, who should be the education decision-maker?
- ✓ Should a parent or other person retain or be given specific education-related rights?
- ✓ Has DFPS provided the education decision-maker form to the child's schools and others?

School Enrollment

- ✓ Was the child immediately enrolled in a new school if a change was required?
- ✓ Are there education record or credit transfer issues that the court should address?

School Placement and School Success

- ✓ Is the child in an appropriate school?
- ✓ Is the child progressing academically and on grade level?
- ✓ Does the child need additional school support?
- ✓ How is the child involved in extracurricular activities?
- ✓ Are there discipline issues? (truancy, suspension, expulsion, Class C tickets, restraints)
- ✓ Has the child's caretaker signed the form to prohibit corporal punishment at school?
- ✓ What does the child say about his school?

Post-Secondary Education

- ✓ Is there a college or career plan for the child?
- ✓ Do the child and his caregivers know about high school graduation requirements and how to prepare and apply for post-secondary education?

Special Education

- ✓ If needed, has the child been evaluated for special education placement and services?
- ✓ If eligible:
 - When was the child's last ARD?
 - Is the child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) current, appropriate, and in force?
 - Who is the child's surrogate parent?